

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 3, placing it in condition for allowance.

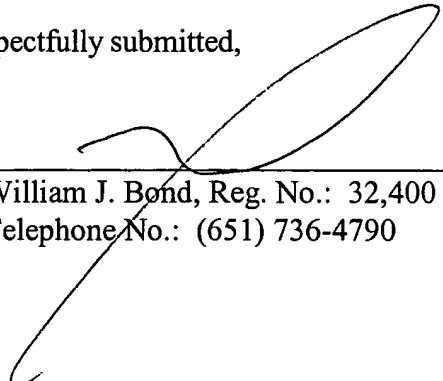
With respect to claim 18, the method recited in claim 18 has been limited to where the stretching force is irreversible. Namely, when the force is removed, these separated surface elements do not rejoin to their original position which is disclosed, for example, at page 12, lines 5-9. In the applied prior art, when the bending force is removed, any gap created will rejoin into the original position before the bending force was applied.

Further, claim 19 has been amended to indicate that the separated surface elements are formed as islands by multiple sets of intersecting cuts which is disclosed in the specification, for example, at page 23, line 24 to page 24, line 9. The prior art does not teach or suggest the formation of separated surface elements as islands particularly with intersecting sets of cut lines. This would be contrary to the functional use of the release layer in Ang ('809) which is described as a brittle release material such as paper which is intended to be removed to expose the underlying adhesive. Cutting a release paper into a series of islands would essentially prevent removal of the release paper.

In view of the above, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be in order and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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